

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 1-3, 6-7, 9-16, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura et al. '828 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The allowable matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1. Matter similar to the allowable matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claims 13 and 14.

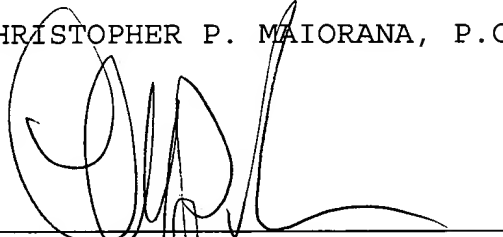
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance.. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge our office  
Account No. 50-0541.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER P. MAIORANA, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Maiorana', written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: April 9, 2004

Docket No.: 0325.00379